

- (b) blocking all exposed metal binding sites remaining after A β capture with a blocker;
- (c) contacting the first complex, which has been passed through step (b), with a[n] polyclonal antibody specific for A β peptide to form a second complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide/polyclonal antibody specific for A β peptide;
- (d) labelling the second complex to form a detectable third complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide/polyclonal antibody specific for A β peptide/label; and
- (e) detecting the third complex, and quantifying A β peptide which may be present in the candidate solution.

2. (Once amended) An [diagnostic] assay for detecting [and/]or quantifying A β peptide which may be present in a candidate solution, comprising:

- (a) contacting the candidate solution with a solid support with a heavy metal cation immobilized thereon to capture A β peptide on the surface of the solid support, thereby forming a first complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide;
- (b) blocking all exposed metal binding sites remaining after A β capture with a blocker;
- (c) contacting the first complex, which has been passed through step (b), with a[n] polyclonal antibody specific for A β peptide, called A β antibody, to form a second complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide/A β antibody;

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(d) contacting said second complex with one or more anti-antibodies specific to the A β antibody to form a third complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide/A β antibody/one or more anti-antibodies;

(e) labelling said third complex to form a detectable fourth complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A β peptide/A β antibody/one or more anti-antibodies/label; and

(f) detecting the fourth complex, thereby quantifying A β peptide which may be present in the candidate solution.

Please amend claims 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-30 as follows:

- ✓ Claims 3-16, line 1, please delete "A diagnostic" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 18-22, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 24-26, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 28-30, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-34 are pending in the application, with 1, 2, 31 and 32 being the independent claims.

Explanation of Amendments

The specification has been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite "[a]n assay" in place of "[a] diagnostic assay."
Claims 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-30 have been amended to recite "[t]he assay" or "[t]he kit" in place of "[a] assay" or "[a] kit," respectively.